

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY COM:S&T/OPS:J WILLIAMS

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.

COM/S&T/OPS:R ELLERT

COM/DIBA/OITP/IND:A DAUMAN

STATE:R BRESLER

COM/DIBA/OIM:R WILSON

STR:H LAWRENCE

COM/NBS:W ANDRUS

COM/NBS:D EDGERLY

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R 200118Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TECH, EEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF EEC METROLOGY NTB

1. AT TECHNICAL MEETING IN LONDON, DECEMBER 2-5, 1975,
OF ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL METROLOGY (OIML)
WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER DRAFT OIML DOCUMENT ON "MEASURING
SYSTEMS FOR LIQUIDS OTHER THAN WATER, EQUIPPED WITH
VOLUMETRIC METERS," LEADER OF U.S. DELEGATION, DAVID
EDGERLY (NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS), WAS INFORMED
UNOFFICIALLY BY REPRESENTATIVE OF EUROPEAN METER MANUFACTUR-
ERS COMMITTEE THAT THIS DRAFT OIML WORKING GROUP DOCUMENT
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HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE EEC FOR APPROVAL AS

AN EEC DIRECTIVE. THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINED SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROVISIONS WHICH THE U.S. STRONGLY OPPOSES. IT IS THIS EARLY DRAFT WHICH, REPORTEDLY, HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE EEC FOR APPROVAL AS A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE.

2. EXAMPLE OF SPECIFIC PROVISION IN DOCUMENT OPPOSED BY U.S. IS THE REQUIREMENT THAT A LIQUID MEASURING SYSTEM CONTAIN VAPOR ELIMINATOR WHOSE VOLUME MUST EQUAL MINIMUM OF EIGHT PERCENT OF LIQUID MEASURED AT MAXIMUM FLOW RATE

FOR ONE MINUTE. THE U.S., SUPPORTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, OBJECTED STRONGLY TO THIS REQUIREMENT ON GROUNDS THAT INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE EXISTS IN THIS AREA TO WARRANT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH FINITE MEASUREMENTS FOR GAS OR VAPOR ELIMINATOR. THIS PROVISION WAS EVENTUALLY ELIMINATED FROM THE DOCUMENT AT LONDON MEETING, AS WERE OTHER OBJECTION-ABLE PROVISIONS. REPORTEDLY, HOWEVER, THE EEC DRAFT DIRECTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT STILL CONTAINS SUCH PROVISIONS.

3. AT MEETING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE EDGERLY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED VERBAL ASSURANCES FROM FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES THAT EEC DIRECTIVE WOULD BE ALTERED TO REFLECT THE TECHNICAL CHANGES MADE IN OIML DRAFT DOCUMENT AT LONDON MEETING. HOWEVER, IT IS EDGERLY'S IMPRESSION THAT HAD THIS BEEN EEC INTENTION FROM BEGINNING, EEC DOCUMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AS PROPOSED EEC DIRECTIVE UNTIL CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED NOT ONLY AT OIML WORKING GROUP LEVEL BUT ALSO IN OIML AS A WHOLE.

4. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF EARLY VERSION OF DRAFT OIML WORKING GROUP DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY SUBMITTED AS PROPOSED EEC DIRECTIVE AND, IF SO, WHEN EEC DIRECTIVE WAS PREPARED, AND AT WHAT STAGE IT IS NOW. IF FACTS ARE ESSENTIALLY AS REPORTED TO EDGERLY ABOVE, MISSION IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO EC COMMISSION U.S. CONCERN THAT SUCH ACTION CAN BE CONSTRUED AS DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS MOVEMENT AND TO THE TRADE FACILITATION OBJECTIVES OF SUCH STANDARDS. MISSION ALSO REQUESTED TRANSMIT TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (ATTN: J. WILLIAMS, OFFICE OF PRODUCT STANDARDS) COPY OF RELEVANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EEC DRAFT DIRECTIVE, IF AVAILABLE, AND TO REPORT ANY FURTHER EEC DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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